

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Charlotte Street Hotel (p338)
- Sumner Hotel (p339)
- Soho Hotel (p334)
- Blakes (p343)
- Stylotel (p348)
- Gore (p343)
- Windermere (p344)
- Luna Simone Hotel (p344)
- Hoxton Hotel (p345)
- Zetter (p345)
- Rookery (p345)

SLEEPING

Accommodation in London is among the world's most expensive and wherever you stay is going to take a great wad out of your budget. Demand can outstrip supply – especially at the bottom end of the market – so it's worth booking at least a few nights' accommodation before arriving, particularly during holiday periods and in summer.

Another problem here can be quality – even at the midrange level. A large part of readers' letters sent to us about London are complaints about the quality and cleanliness of hostels, guesthouses and some B&Bs, 'fauna' in the rooms and the rudeness of staff. The descriptions in this chapter will help you make your choice.

It's not all bad news, though. A slew of upmarket boutique hotels have brought a real sense of style to the city's digs, and scores of midrange hotels and B&Bs are following suit. At the other end of the spectrum, some places have begun providing boringly functional but affordable rooms. A very exciting trend has been the convergence of these two extremes in a new crop of 'budget boutique' hotels, with a bit of chic at reasonable prices.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES & COSTS

London has a superb range of deluxe hotels (from £350 per double) and you'll be spoiled for choice with old classics that combine the best in traditional atmosphere and modern comforts. There's also good variety in the top-end category (anything from £180 upwards), which offers superior comforts without the prestige. Also in this bracket you'll find many of the boutique and style hotels that have sprung up in recent years. Below £180 there's a bit of a slide in quality and choice. Although there's an increasing number of terrific places to rest your head without haemorrhaging your budget, it's still not enough. And if you were expecting to spend less than £100 a night on a double room during the week, your lodgings probably won't provide the most cherished memories of your trip. (On the other hand, there are some good weekend deals for that price.) In London, cheap means less than £80 for an en suite double. After B&Bs, the cheapest forms of accommodation are hostels, both the official Youth Hostel Association (YHA) ones, of which there are seven in cen-

tral London, and the (usually) hipper, more party-orientated independent ones, which are growing in number.

Hotel rooms in the UK are subject to 'value-added tax' or VAT (currently at 15%). Many hotels quote rates inclusive of VAT, while others do not, so it always pays to ask if you are uncertain. Remember, though, that many hotels – especially deluxe ones – regularly offer promotional deals on the internet that are much lower than their published rates. Unless otherwise indicated, accommodation prices quoted in this book include breakfast.

The accommodation options in this guide are listed by area and then by price, from most to least expensive. See the Price Guide boxed text, [below](#), for more information on accommodation prices.

LONGER-TERM RENTALS

Apartments & Serviced Apartments

If you are visiting London for a few weeks or several months, staying in a short-term or serviced apartment is the best way to get a sense of living in the city. Many agencies in *Loot* (p389) advertise less-than-salubrious properties; ask to see rooms first. [London Craig's List](http://london.craigslist.co.uk) (<http://london.craigslist.co.uk>) is always worth checking for rental properties. Some better agencies and their daily rates are listed here.

196 BISHOPSGATE

☎ 7621 8788; www.196bishopsgate.com; studio/1-bedroom apt from £193/230, cheaper after 6 nights

PRICE GUIDE

The symbols below indicate the cost per night of a standard double room in high season.

£££	over £180
££	£80-180
£	under £80